
DIGEST

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Lopinto

HB No. 575

Abstract: Provides relative to the disbursement of funds for loss of life opportunities of persons who were wrongfully convicted, requiring proof of enrollment or registration or proof of actual expenses incurred.

Present law provides for the disbursement of funds up to \$80,000 for the loss of life opportunities of persons who were wrongfully convicted in order to pay for certain job-skills training, education, or other medical and counseling services.

Proposed law retains present law but requires the petitioner to show that he has enrolled in or has registered for such training, classes, or services, or provide proof of actual expenses incurred as a result thereof.

Proposed law adds that expenses associated with entering into a lease or rental agreement for housing, purchasing health care insurance, or incurring medical expenses may be covered by the loss of life opportunities award.

Proposed law requires the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to manage the Innocence Compensation Fund.

Proposed law provides that the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice shall prepare a report annually for the prior calendar year and submit it to the governor and legislature, on or before the first day of April, commencing in 2013, including the number of awards and the total amount of funds distributed.

Proposed law requires the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to adopt rules to administer proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 15:572.8(H)(2), (3), and (4) and (N)(1); Adds R.S. 15:572.8(H)(5), (R), and (S))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill.

1. Added provisions requiring the Innocence Compensation Fund to be managed by the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

2. Added provisions requiring the commission to submit an annual report on the total number of awards and compensation distributed to the governor and legislature.
3. Authorized expenses for housing, health insurance, and medical needs to be covered by the \$80,000 loss of life opportunities award.
4. Added provision requiring the promulgation of rules.